

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Radio Relay League  
American Red Cross  
Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International  
Forestry Conservation Communications Association  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

International Municipal Signal Association  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors  
National Association of State Telecommunications Directors  
National Association of State Foresters.

NPSTC was originally formed to encourage and facilitate implementation of the findings and recommendations of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC), established in 1994 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to evaluate the wireless communications needs of local, tribal, State, and Federal public safety agencies through the year 2010, identify problems, and recommend possible solutions.

NPSTC has since taken on additional responsibilities including implementing the recommendations of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) and the support and development of the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) for 700 MHz spectrum to assist the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs). NPSTC develops and makes recommendations to appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues and policies that promote greater interoperability and cooperation between Federal, State and local agencies. Issues include: Spectrum Resources, 800 MHz rebanding, 700 MHz, 4.9 GHz, Software Defined Radio (SDR), US/Canadian/DTV Transition, Project MESA, Amateur Radio, Regional Planning Committees (RPCs), State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs), Broadband, and the International Telecommunications Union.

NPSTC applauds the efforts of the Commission as we believe the desired goals of this proceeding of providing service to the public consistently and expeditiously, allowing the marketplace to respond to consumer demands, and allowing for flexible use

of the spectrum will greatly aid in the facilitating band reconfiguration under way at 800 MHz. The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council believes a window of opportunity also exists for this proceeding to provide another avenue of assistance to public safety. NPSTC respectfully urges the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to allocate channels within the B/ILT pool in the 900 MHz band to public safety for digital paging.

Public safety also stands to benefit from market place innovation driven by consumer demand. Off the shelf technology could be utilized by public safety to provide paging services at a reduced cost, while preventing the formation of a niche market. Coupling the allocation with the timing of the 800 MHz band reconfiguration would provide an opportunity for public safety agencies to update their paging technologies.

NPSTC agrees with the Commission that the best regulatory framework for such a 900 MHz allocation would be the proposed area licensing approach. That regulatory model would be a sound methodology for allocating frequencies to public safety for digital paging.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent R. Stile, Chair  
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